

Message Text

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16

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: SECOND PANEL COURT MARTIAL SENTENCES

REF: (A) SEOUL 4515, (B) SEOUL 4483

1. THE SENTENCES IMPOSED BY SECOND PANEL COURT MARTIAL ON JULY 11 ANNOUNCING DEATH SENTENCES FOR SEVEN DEFENDANTS AND LONG PRISON TERMS FOR OTHERS AS DEMANDED BY PROSECUTOR MADE FRONT PAGE HEADLINES JULY 12. DEFENDANTS ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING BEEN "INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTHS AND STUDENTS" AND HAVING BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE "PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY," WHICH UNDER TELEGUIDANCE FROM PYONGYANG WAS TRYING TO OVERTHROW ROKG IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH COMMUNIST REGIME IN SOUTH.

2. SEVEN DEFENDANTS UNDER DEATH SENTENCE ARE MEN RANGING IN AGE FROM 36 TO 51. THEY HAD ALL BEEN FORMER YOUTH LEADERS AND FORMER PARTICIPANTS IN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY. THEY ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING BEEN ORGANIZERS OF COMMUNIST CELLS SEEKING TO GUIDE AND INFLUENCE NFDYS AND OTHER ANTI-GOVERNMENT STUDENT GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES. THEIR NAMES ARE:
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SO TO-WAN, EX-CHAIRMAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH

LEAGUE; TO YE-CHONG, EX-CHAIRMAN PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY; HA CHAE-WAN, EX-CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEAGUE; YI SU-PYONG,
WU HONG-SAN, AND KIM PYONG WON, ALL TEACHERS AND
ALLEGED ORGANIZERS OF REVOLUTIONARY CELLS IN SEOUL;
SONG SANG-CHIN, EX-REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES' PARTY
MEMBER AND ORGANIZER OF REVOLUTIONARY CELL
IN KYONG-SANG PUKTO. (COMMENT: EXTENT OF THEIR ACTUAL
INVOLVEMENT WITH STUDENT MOVEMENT OR COMMUNIST TIES
IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS. HOWEVER, THEIR PAST RECORD
AND REPUTATION ARE SERVING ROKG TO MAKE CASE THAT
STUDENT MOVEMENT COMMUNIST INSPIRED AND GUIDED.

3. OTHER DEFENDANTS CONDEMNED BY SECOND PANEL TO LIFE
OR LONG TERM PRISON SENTENCES PLUS LOSS OF CIVIL
RIGHTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AS WELL AS OTHER LEFT WING
MOVEMENTS. THE MAIN CHARGE PUBLISHED AGAINST THEM
IS THAT THEY HAD BELONGED TO VARIOUS REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY COMMITTEES, BUT NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN AS TO
THEIR SPECIFIC INVOLVEMENT WITH STUDENT OR OTHER
ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

4. EXECUTION OF SENTENCES FAR FROM IMMEDIATE.
DEFENDANTS HAVE RIGHT OF APPEAL TO APPELATE
EMERGENCY COURT MARTIAL AND TO ROK SUPREME COURT.
IF AND WHEN SUPREME COURT CONFIRMS SENTENCES, THESE
REMAIN SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE
ACTING FOR ROK PRESIDENT. HE HAS POWER OF GRANTING
CLEMENCY.
HABIB

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